

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 02585 100945Z

15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OMB-01 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05

SCS-03 PER-01 /067 W

----- 103718

O 100715Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3416

INFO COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

COMIPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 02585

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI PS

SUBJECT: ATTACK ON BAN ME THOUOT

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON
10 MARCH BEING REPEATED TO YOU.

QUOTE NHA TRANG 0142

1. BAN ME THUOT, THE CAPITAL OF DARLAC PROVINCE, CAME UNDER
COMMUNIST ATTACK IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF MARCH 10. DETAILS
FOLLOW.

2. AT 100200 HRS, AN UNIDENTIFIED COMMUNIST FORCE ATTACKED THE
2ND CO OF THE 225TH RF BN, 5 KM WEST NORTHWEST OF BAN ME THUOT.
AT THE SAME TIME, THE COMMUNISTS ATTACKED BMT SUBSECTOR HQS.
AT 100300 HRS, COMMUNIST GUNNERS BEGAN FIRING ROUNDS FROM ASSORTED
HEAVY WEAPONS INTO BMT ITSELF; REPORTEDLY SOME ROUNDS HAD
IMPACTED IN THE CITY--ESPECIALLY NEAR THE 23RD DIV'S HQS AND
NEAR THE AMMO DUMP--BY 100600 HRS. AT 100315 HRS, THE COMMUNISTS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 02585 100945Z

MORTARED AND ATTACKED THE DOWNTOWN AIRFIELD WHICH WAS GUARDED BY

4 PF PLATOONS. AT 100330 HRS, 7 KM WEST OF BMT, THE COMMUNISTS BEGAN MORTARING THE AMMO DUMP SECURED THE THE 4TH CO OF THE 242ND RF DN. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY BEGAN MORTARING THE PHUNG DUC AIRFIELD (LOCATED ABOUT 4 KM EAST OF BMT) SECURED BY THE 53RD ARVN REGT (MINUS). AT 100340 HRS, A COMMUNIST FORCE FROM THE SOUTH ATTACKED THE SURROUNDED BMT CITY. AT THE SAME TIME, COMMUNIST SAPPERS PENETRATED INTO THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF PHUNG EUC AIRPORT. AT 100345 HRS, NUMEROUS COMMUNIST TANKS WERE SIGHTED NW OF BMT. AS OF 100620 HRS, THE AMMO DUMP HAD BEEN OVERRUN, THE SUBSECTOR HQS AND 232ND AND 269TH ARTY PLTS WERE BEING ATTACKED, AND COMMUNIST TANKS FROM THE SOUTH WERE MOVING TOWARD BMT.

3. PROV REP DARLAC (MR. STRUHARIK) REPORTS (AS OF 100805 HRS) THAT POWER AND PHONES IN BMT ARE CURRENTLY UNRELIABLE, AND THAT 11 OF THE 14 AMERICANS WHO LIVE IN BMT ARE NOW AT HIS HOUSE.

4. AT 101000 HRS PROV REP QUAND DUC (MR. MARTINDALE REPORTED THAT INFORMATION FROM QUANG DUC SECTOR MADE AVAILABLE TO HIM INDICATED THAT BMT WAS 50 PERCENT OCCUPIED BY THE COMMUNISTS-THE NATIONAL POLICE HQS, PHUNG DUC AIRFIELD AND THE GVN GUEST VILLA

HAD ALL FALLEN TO THE COMMUNIST. THE GVN RADIO STATION, HOWEVER, WAS STILL HOLDING OUT. GVN AIRSTRIKES ARE NOW BEING SENT IN AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS.

5. LATE NEWS-WE HAVE SENT A VOLPAR TO THE AREA TO TRY TO ESTABLISH RADIO CONTACT WITH THE PROV REP BUT THE AIRCRAFT HAS NOT SUCCEEDED IN DOINH SO YET. MEANWHILE, WE HAVE LEARNED THROUGH ARVN CHANNELS THAT "THE AMERICANS" ARE PRESENTLY IN THE SECTOR HQS AROUND WHICH A DEFENSE PERIMETER HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED. WE HAVE TWO HELICOPTERS STANDING BY HERE TO ATTEMPT EVACUATION WHENEVER THAT PROVES FEASIBLE. SPEAR UNQUOTE LEHMANN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SAIGON02585
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750083-0113
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750366/aaaachjl.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ATTACK ON BAN ME THOUOT FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, MOPS, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006